



PRESS RELEASE
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PHOSPHATE COMPANY SIGNS CONSENT DECREE

U.S. Attorney Paul I. Perez announced today that a Consent Decree has been reached concerning a complaint filed by the United States against IMC Phosphates Company, alleging violations of permits issued by the Jacksonville District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps permits authorized the placement of fill material in wetland areas at four separate phosphate mines in Hillsborough, Polk, and Hardee Counties. The Complaint alleged that IMC illegally discharged fill material beyond the authorized boundaries set by each permit. The illegal fills affected a total of 11.3 acres of wetlands and 24.6 acres of open water.

IMC cooperated in the Corps' investigation and has signed a Consent Decree to resolve the violations. The Consent Decree requires IMC to restore the wetlands at each site, restore a 139-acre tract at an estimated cost of \$350,000.00, and pay a cash penalty of \$50,000.00. In addition, IMC will provide a conservation easement requiring the perpetual preservation and maintenance of 167.5 acres of the restored wetlands and will monitor to ensure successful restoration of the remaining 7.4 acres affected by the settlement.

This case was investigated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and handled by Assistant United States Attorney Daniel W. Eckhart of the Orlando Civil Division for the United States Attorney's Office, Middle District of Florida.